

By the Lords Iustices, and Councell.

Instructions to be obserued by the Shiriffes.

Adam Loftus Canc. R. Corke.



That they keepe but as many Bayliffes as there are Baronies in the Countie, except in such Counties as are great and haue but few Baronies, where they may be allowed two or three in such Baronies, as the Iustices of Peace in their quarter Sessions shall thinke fit, the names of all which Bayliffes to be particularly nominated for each Barony, the high Shiriffe is to deliuer vp in writing vnder his hand to the Custos Rotulorum, and Iustices of Peace at the next quarter Sessions after his entry into his Office, as persons for whom he will be answerable, and the Iustices are to make the same knowne to the severall high Constables, and they to the inferior Constables, and they to the People: And if any alteration shall happen by death or otherwise of any of the said Bayliffes after they are first nominated as aforesaid, that then the Shiriffe doe presently giue notice by writing vnder his hand to the Custos Rotulorum of any such alteration of any Bayliffe or Bayliffes, and the Custos Rotulorum to giue notice thereof to the severall high Constables, and they to the inferior Constables, and they to the People as aforesaid.

2 The Shiriffe is to keepe his Courts in the Market-Townes, and other Townes erected, and neyther the Shiriffe himselfe, nor any of his Officers, Bayliffes, or Seruants are to take any meate, drinke, or lodging from any of his Maesties Subiects against their wills without paying ready money for the same, there being Innes and Alehouses sufficient in every County where they may haue entertainment for their money, and the Subiects doe pay them fees for Costs of Court, and any Writs they serue vpon them.

3 If any person or persons shall be found wandering vp and downe the Countrey vnder the name of the Shiriffes man, or Bayliffe, not being undertaken for by the Shiriffe, and his name giuen in as aforesaid, vpon complaint thereof made, and proued before any Iustice of the Peace, the said Iustice is to commit any such person or persons to the Countie-Iaple, there to remaine till the next generall Sessions to be holden in the Countie when the Iudges of Assize are to proceede against them according to Law and Iustice.

4 The Shiriffe is not to commit any man to the Iaple without A Mittimus from a Iustice of the Peace, but hee may apprehend Malefactors, and send them to the Iustices to be examined, and may likewise commit them by warrants from Us, or from the Lords Presidents.

5 Upon the commitment of any Offendor to the Iaple, or put vpon Bayle, or vpon any Legall suspicion of any partie that cannot be apprehended, the Shiriff is to take a true Inuentory of any such parties goods, and to put them vpon good sureties to bee forth-coming for the Kings use if vpon his trespall they shall become forfeited, and not sweepe them away, and appraise, and sell them at meane and bafe rates before conviction as in former times hath bene too frequently accustomed: But after conviction of any Offendor whereupon his goods are to becheate to his Maestie, the Shiriffe is to cause such goods to be seiled, and appraised by sufficient persons of the Countie for his Maesties best advantage, and that his opposall in the Exchequer to produce the said appraisment vnder the hand of the appraisers.

6 That the Shiriffe his Officers and Bayliffes, when they leaue any Pones or take distresses for his Maesties debts, or for debts betwixt partie and partie doe giue a note vnder their hand to the partie from whom they take any such Poney or distresse, therein shewing the reason, wherfore and mentioning the Writ or Warrant by vertue whereof they take away such Poney or distresses, that so the said partie may haue remedy against the said Officer if he leaue any thing vnjustly or vnwarrantably from him: And where any such distresses are taken by the said Shiriffe or his Officer or Bayliffe for his Maesties debts, or for debts betwixt partie and partie, the said Shiriffe and his Officers are to cause them to be legally and publicly appraised by some sufficient persons, and thereof to giue notice to the parties from whom they are taken, that they may redeeme them if they will for ready Poney, and not carry away the said distresses, and appraise them at meane and bafe rates unknowne to the parties from whom they are taken.

7 That whereas diuers leaues are made vpon the Countrey sometimes by Warrant from the Lords Iustices and Councell and sometimes by Warrant of the Iustices of the Peace for severall publike occasions, which leaues are alleadged to be vnequally appoitioned, and many times the Pones not acknowledged by such as receiue the same, nor converted to those uses for which they are leued, for prevention of which abuses Wee doe order that when any such Warrant shall be sent to the Shiriffe for any such leaue to be made for any occasion whatsoever, that the Summe to be leaued be expressly set downe in the Warrant, and that some choyce men in every Barony or Parish may bee appointed by the Iustices of Peace at the first publike quarter Sessions to make an equall assessment thereof by the Acres, Plough-land, Towne-land, Ballpbo, quarter-Pole, Tote or other nomination accustomed in the Countie or Barony where such leaues are to be made, and that the same be deliuered vnto the Shiriffe vnder the hands of the Iustices of Peace, who is thereupon to appoint his knowne Bayliffes for whom hee doth undertake or other sufficient Collectors appointed by the Iustices to collect the said Pones, and to giue notes of receipt vnder their hands to the parties from whom they receiue any Pones, therein expelling the summes they receiue, and for what Lands, and from whom, and for what cause, and by what Warrant, that so the parties who pay any such Pones may not be doubly, nor wrongfully charged, but may know where, and against whom to seeke remedy, if any such wrong be done them, as hath bene heretofore much complained of.

8 Likewise the Shiriffes are to take speciall care that all such Fines as are to be assessed in any their Turne-Courts be strictly looked vnto, and well examined with the causes of those Fines, by the Custos Rotulorum, and other the Iustices publicly at the Bench: And they make by formal and legall Indictments of all things presentable in their Turne-Courts, and returne them duely to the quarter Sessions: And that there againe they may be well examined before the Fines be either assessed or imposed, to be Examined likewise, and approued off by the Custos Rotulorum, and Iustices of the Peace at their publike Sessions before they be Estreated, and the Estreate to be vnder their hands Indented, one part to be the Shiriffes Warrant for leaueing them, the other part to remaine Signed by the Shiriffe, with the Custos Rotulorum, or his Clarke of the Peace.

9 If any Shiriffe shall offend in the matters forbidden, or any part thereof, or shall doe any Act, or Acts, thing, or things, to the oppression of the People contrary to the Tenor of the Law, vpon complaint, and due prooff thereof made, he shall be presently deprived of his Office and severely punished, as the qualitie of his offence shall deserue, and therefore if abuses are done by Shiriffes, and their Bayliffes or Officers it is the fault of the Inhabitants if they doe not complaine thereof to Us, who are and will be ever ready to giue them speedy reliefe.

Given at his Maesties Castle of Dublin the 13, day of January 1629.

C. Wilmo.

Moore.

R. Ranelagh.

Will. Caulfield.

Henry Docwra.

Fr. Augier.

Fra. Mountnoris.

Will. Parsons.

Rich. Bolton.

Ioh. King.

Adam Loftus.

Thom. Dutton.

Thom. Ratheram.

Thom. Hybors.

God saue the King.

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